

House File 2153 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2153

BY KOESTER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing an Iowa national service corps program
2 administered by the Iowa commission on volunteer service.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 15H.5, subsection 5, paragraph a, Code
2 2018, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. Funding for the Iowa summer youth corps program, the
4 Iowa green corps program established pursuant to [section 15H.6](#),
5 the Iowa reading corps program established pursuant to section
6 15H.7, ~~and~~ the RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps program established
7 pursuant to [section 15H.8](#), and the Iowa national service
8 corps program established pursuant to section 15H.9 shall be
9 obtained from private sector, and local, state, and federal
10 government sources, or from other available funds credited to
11 the community programs account, which shall be created within
12 the economic development authority under the authority of the
13 commission. Moneys available in the account for a fiscal year
14 are appropriated to the commission to be used for the programs.
15 The commission may establish an escrow account within the
16 authority and obligate moneys within that escrow account for
17 tuition or program payments to be made beyond the term of any
18 fiscal year. Notwithstanding [section 12C.7, subsection 2](#),
19 interest earned on moneys in the community programs account
20 shall be credited to the account. Notwithstanding section
21 8.33, moneys in the community programs account or escrow
22 account shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain
23 available for expenditure in future fiscal years.

24 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 15H.9 Iowa national service corps
25 program.

26 1. The Iowa commission on volunteer service may establish an
27 Iowa national service corps program to provide opportunities
28 for state agencies, political subdivisions of the state, and
29 private, nonprofit organizations to create national service
30 programs outside of existing state and federal programs to meet
31 state and local needs and to provide more opportunities for
32 Iowans to serve their state and country and foster a cultural
33 expectation of service in Iowa through a unified service corps.

34 2. The commission may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
35 for approving Iowa national service corps programs and national

1 service positions. Existing programs and service positions,
2 including those established through the AmeriCorps programs in
3 Iowa created pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12501, Senior Corps and
4 AmeriCorps vista in Iowa created pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §4950 et
5 seq., the Iowa summer youth corps program created pursuant to
6 section 15H.5, the Iowa green corps program created pursuant
7 to section 15H.6, the Iowa reading corps program created
8 pursuant to section 15H.7, the RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps program
9 created pursuant to section 15H.8, and the Iowa conservation
10 corps created pursuant to section 84A.7, are part of the Iowa
11 national service corps programs and national service positions.

12 3. State agencies or political subdivisions of the state
13 may enter into an agreement with any approved Iowa national
14 service corps program directly or through an agreement with
15 the commission. State agencies or political subdivisions of
16 the state may establish Iowa national service corps programs
17 or contract with a third-party vendor to assist the agency or
18 political subdivision in establishing such programs.

19 4. State agencies or political subdivisions of the state may
20 give priority to grants or projects funded that utilize Iowa
21 national service corps programs.

22 5. State agencies or political subdivisions of the state
23 may establish hiring preferences for any Iowa national service
24 corps or AmeriCorps participant who has successfully completed
25 a year of full-time service or one thousand seven hundred hours
26 over a period extending beyond a year.

27 6. A person participating in the Iowa national service corps
28 program is not an employee of the organization in which the
29 person is enrolled regardless of whether a stipend is provided,
30 shall be exempt from the merit system requirements of chapter
31 8, subchapter IV, and is not eligible to receive unemployment
32 compensation benefits under chapter 96 upon completion of
33 service.

EXPLANATION

34
35 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

1 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2 This bill allows the Iowa commission on volunteer service
3 (commission) to establish an Iowa national service corps
4 program to provide opportunities for state agencies, political
5 subdivisions of the state, and private, nonprofit organizations
6 to create national service programs outside of existing state
7 and federal programs to meet state and local needs and provide
8 opportunities for volunteer service. The bill provides that
9 certain specified, existing programs and service positions are
10 automatically part of the Iowa national service corps program.
11 The bill allows state agencies or political subdivisions
12 of the state to enter into agreements with approved Iowa
13 national service corps programs either directly or through
14 the commission. The bill states a person participating in
15 the Iowa national service corps program is not an employee of
16 the organization in which the person is enrolled, is exempt
17 from the state merit system requirements, and is ineligible
18 to receive unemployment compensation benefits upon completion
19 of service. The bill allows state agencies or political
20 subdivisions of the state to establish hiring preferences for
21 Iowa national service corps or AmeriCorps participants that
22 have successfully completed a year of full-time service or
23 1,700 hours over a period beyond one year.

24 The bill allows the commission to use moneys in and available
25 to the community programs account established in current Code
26 section 15H.5 to fund the program. The account may be credited
27 with private sector, and local, state, and federal government
28 sources, or other available funds, for use by the commission
29 for various programs administered by the commission.